(b) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has recently been entrusted to look into some more items;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report covering all those items including problems of coordination between various agencies at the airport and the issue of privatisation?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) R.C. Jain Committee, besides looking into the death of a small girl in an escalator accident at IGI airport, was entrusted to look into following aspects of airport functioning and give recommendations for systemic improvements in respect of:—

(i) airport maintenance systems, (ii) coordination between different agencies functioning at the airport and their effectiveness in the context of overall airport management, (iii) the response systems in case of an accident/ emergency, (iv) functioning of various facilities from the point of view of overall safety of passengers especially during emergencies, (v) sensitisation of personnel of different departments/organisations while reacting to various kinds of emergencies, (vi) any other area of overall functioning of major airports.

In February, 2000 the Committee was also asked to look into security operations at the airports. The Committee has submitted its interim report on 7.2.2000 to the Government. The time for submission of final report has been extended to 30th June, 2000.

Misuse of air fare concessions given to handicapped persons

†5341. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that concessions given to the handicapped persons in fare are being extremely misused;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step to prevent the misuse of the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) According to available information, no report on misuse of the concession offered to the disabled persons by Indian Airlines has been reported so far.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Increase in fares on domestic routes

5342. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to allow different airlines to raise the fares on domestic routes;

(b) whether Government have calculated the exact cost increase per mile per passenger due to increased fuel cost;

(c) whether it is a fact that in the past even when the cost of fuel has gone down considerably there was never any decrease in the air tariffs; and

(d) if so, whether the carriers are demanding very high increase in the name of increased fuel cost?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) Domestic air fares are not being regulated and the airlines are free to decide air fares in their commercial judgement.

Harassment of passengers at IGI Airport, Delhi

5343. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that closed circuit T.V. camera at the Indira Gandhi International Airport have captured on tape instances of bribes taken by officials and harassment of passengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The material has been sent to Delhi Police for necessary action. The Delhi Police after examining the same have intimated that though the recording was of poor quality and some persons posted at IGI Airport Delhi were seen interrupting a few passengers unauthorisedly, some of these interceptors resembled security personnel on duty. These personnel alongwith their